

What Is Claimed is:

1. A method for placing interactive wagers on races that are to be run using an interactive wagering application that is implemented using user equipment, comprising:

providing a user at the user equipment with an opportunity to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select which runner or runners are to be used in a wager for a race to be run; and

providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to place the wager.

2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the runners are horses.

3. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a racetrack for the wager.

4. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a race for the wager.

5. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a wager type for the wager.

6. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a wager amount for the wager.

7. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to manually select the runner or runners for the wager.

8. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising displaying a screen on the user equipment that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select the horse or horses.

9. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising displaying a screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select the horse or horses.

10. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising displaying a screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select the horse or horses, wherein the screen includes a graphic containing information on the automatically selected horse or horses.

11. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising automatically selecting the horse or horses for the wager using a random-number generation application at computer equipment separate from the user equipment.

12. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising:

displaying a screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select the horse or horses; and

automatically selecting the horse or horses for the wager using a random number generation application at computer equipment separate from the user equipment.

13. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising:

displaying a horse selection screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select the horse or horses for the wager and that includes on-screen options that allow the user to manually select a horse or horses for the wager; and

automatically selecting the horse or horses for the wager using a random number generation application at computer equipment separate from the user equipment.

14. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising displaying a race ticket on a screen with the user equipment that reflects which runner or runners are automatically selected.

15. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising displaying information on post times for upcoming races on a screen with the user equipment.

16. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising processing the wager with equipment remote from the user equipment once the wager has been placed.

17. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses, the method further comprising processing the wager once the wager has been placed.

18. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the runners are horses and wherein an account is maintained for the user at a transaction processing and subscription management system, the method further comprising processing the wager once the wager has been placed and crediting the account when the wager is successful.

19. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the user equipment is user television equipment.

20. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the user equipment is user computer equipment.

21. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the user equipment is user telephone equipment.

22. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the user equipment is cellular telephone equipment with a display.

23. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the user equipment is a handheld computer.

24. An interactive wagering system in which an interactive wagering application is used to provide a user with an opportunity to place wagers on races that are to be run, comprising:

user equipment configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one runner to be used in a wager for a race to be run;

provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to place the wager; and

a transaction processing and subscription management system that is in communication with the user equipment and that handles the wager once it has been placed.

25. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the runners are horses.

26. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the

user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a racetrack for the wager.

27. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a race for the wager.

28. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a wager type for the wager.

29. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to select a wager amount for the wager.

30. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the interactive wagering application to manually select the at least one runner for the wager.

31. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display a screen on the user equipment that allows the user to direct the

interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one horse for the wager.

32. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display a screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one horse for the wager.

33. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display a screen on the user equipment that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one horse for the wager, wherein the screen includes a graphic containing information on the automatically selected at least one horse.

34. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses, wherein the system comprises computer equipment separate from the user equipment, and wherein the computer equipment is configured to automatically select at least one horse for the wager using a random-number generation application.

35. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display a screen that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the

interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one horse for the wager, the system further comprising computer equipment separate from the user equipment, wherein the computer equipment is configured to automatically select at least one horse for the wager using a random-number generation application.

36. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the user equipment is configured to display a horse selection screen that includes an on-screen option that allows the user to direct the interactive wagering application to automatically select at least one horse for the wager and that includes on-screen options that allow the user to manually select at least one horse for the wager, the system further comprising computer equipment separate from the user equipment, wherein the interactive wagering application automatically selects at least one horse for the wager using a random number generation application at the computer equipment.

37. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display a race ticket on a screen that reflects which runner or runners are automatically selected.

38. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display information on post times for upcoming races on a screen.

39. The system defined in claim 24 wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system passes the wager to a totalisator once the wager has been placed.

40. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses and wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system passes the wager to a totalisator once the wager has been placed.

41. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the runners are horses, wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system maintains an account for the user, and wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system credits the account when the wager is successful.

42. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the user equipment is user television equipment.

43. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the user equipment is user computer equipment.

44. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the user equipment is user telephone equipment.

45. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the user equipment is cellular telephone equipment with a display.

46. The system defined in claim 24, wherein the user equipment is a handheld computer.